

PARISH COUNCIL OF HILLESLEY AND TRESHAM MINUTES

Meeting held at Hopkins Hall, Hillesley on 12th October 2011

Present: Cllr D Darlow, Cllr T Burden, Cllr A Doughty, Cllr A Clark, L Spratling (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr J. Cordwell (County), Paul Hemming(District), and 10 members of the public

Public Participation: Cllr D Darlow invited those present to provide an update on any planned bid for The Fleece.

The Community Rescue Group's representative, Nigel Vaughan described the goal for their bid was to retain & enhance the community. The sale was currently on hold by the holding company who owned 37 pubs, of which 8 would be auctioned (the 8 did not include The Fleece). Those involved in this bid were Gavin, & Julie Bailey, Dean & Heather Gigg, Lance & Angela Doughty and Nigel & Alwyn Vaughan. At least 20/30 potential investors in this bid had been identified and 18 had expressed an interest.

Their Mission was to:

- generate a thriving pub for the community of Hillesley, co-owned by a substantial number of Hillesley and surrounding area residents
- preserve real value of the capital invested by the owners

The Business Model included:

- establish a legal company (limited?)
- offer shares
- VAT registered
- elect a Board of Directors and an annually elected committee
- appoint a tenant at a rent of £17.5K which would generate a 5% ROI
- offer loyalty cards/discounts for shareholders
- arrange a leaflet drop and hope to have a Public Meeting w/b 17th October

One additional comment was made that the street lighting was faulty – although this had been reported already. **Action Point: Cllr D Darlow to investigate by E Mail.**

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Claire Halpin – accepted, Cllr R Harlow – accepted, Cllr S Butcher – accepted and Paul Hemming (District Councillor)

2. Declarations of interest: Cllr A Doughty (potential investor in the purchase of The Fleece)

3. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the 7th September and the 4th October 2011 were approved, and signed by the Chair (Cllr D Darlow). All Action Points had been completed.

4. Clerk's Report:

- Allotments – all rents received except for one plot. Parish Clerk has sent a further letter to the tenant with an urgent request for payment. There are other existing allotment holders who wish to rent additional plots.
- Co-Op Bank Account – now open and all key fob holders can now access the account.
- no progress on Wind Turbine planning application.

5. Correspondence & documents:

- Delay in Car Parking survey – as per Paul Hemming's report
- Victim Support Brochure – **Action Point: Cllr D Darlow to place on noticeboards**
- Boundary Commission – progress made to date
- Receipt of 2nd half of precept from SDC – banked into new Co-op bank account
- Precept Request Form for completion by year end – **Action Point: Once budget agreed, Parish Clerk to return form.**
- GCC – confirmation that Gloucestershire Waste Strategy now submitted to Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government
- Hillesley Directory – amends from Margaret Plummer completed. **Action Point: Parish Clerk to bring a few copies to November Meeting**

6. Planning Applications:

Consultation on new applications

GL12Byre Yard Tresham, Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucestershire,
7RW Erection of rear single storey extension.

Decision: Nether Support nor object

Action Point: Parish Clerk to communicate decision to planning authorities - Completed

7. Finance:

a. To Monitor Performance to Date. **Action point: Cllr D Darlow to forward some queries to Parish Clerk to facilitate 2011/12 budget process.**

b. Payments approved:

To be paid from Santander Bank

- Cheque from Santander to Co-op - £3500.00
- Transfer from Santander to Co-op of closing balance

To be paid from Co-op Bank

- 6 months Wages – Clerk - £1088.00
- PAYE – HMRC - £272.00
- Moore Stephen's Accountants - £144.00
- Tresham Church Committee – Grant of £350.00

8. Parish Plan Update:

Cllr A Clark – Tresham now successfully operating a Oil Buying Group with circa 65 households involved and opportunity extended to Leighterton residents. 17K litres recently purchased at a discount after estimate received from 5/6 local companies.

Cllr A Doughty – further research on affordable housing since unable to attend recent Affordable Housing Event arranged by Martin Hutchings. Clarification needed whether affordable housing provision would be possible if no facilities or services available in the village. The Housing Core Strategy focuses on large sites (John Cordwell) although there may be changes with the Localism Bill.

Cllr D Darlow – Noted that as some successes had been achieved on the Parish Plan, this should be up dated appropriately and on a quarterly basis in the future.

Cllr T Burden – attended the Highways Event. There was a 'do it yourself' focus with support from the County Council. A Highways Your Way booklet was distributed. The Accident Reporting site may be an opportunity to strengthen any request for highway work in the future, although there appeared to be no accident reports currently recorded in the Hillesley & Tresham area.

Cllr R Harlow and Cllr S Butcher – no updates

9. Grit Bins

Cllr D Darlow and Julian Wilson from Highways had toured the Parish. The map of existing grit bins was not accurate. The road to Tresham is in the parish of Alderley and it is not feasible to grit the length of this road by hand. There is an offer for a grant for additional grit bins, but it is not clear where additional ones would be needed, although the road from Tresham to the A46 would benefit from 1 or 2 additional bins. Cllr D Darlow reported that 3 bins needed replacing on the Upper Kilcote and Midger Wood roads and 1 where Watery Lane joins Kilcote Road.

Action Point: Cllr D Darlow to agree the way forward with Parish Clerk including informing Julian Wilson of our views.

Action Point: Grit Bins to appear as an Agenda Item in November.

10. Highways, Footpaths and Waterways:

As reported by Cllr T Burden, the focus of the Highways Event on the 10th October 2011 is on helping communities to help themselves. A recent survey had reported that 99% of people wanted traffic improvements to stop. Hand spreaders to spread grit on pavements would be part funded, although storage for grit & spreaders would have to be found. Salt stocks have doubled over the last 2 years. Hillesley is on the borders of 2 councils, which complicates grit spreading. There would be no grit spreading for Tresham. Salt bags are due to be delivered in October, although none had been ordered.

It was noted that there was water running across the road at the entry to Folly Farm. Kingswood Parish Council has taken this up with Bristol Water.

Action Point: Parish Clerk to ask for contact name from Kingswood Parish Clerk. COMPLETED

Action Point: Cllr D Darlow to place M4/M5 Motorway Consultation notice on noticeboards.

11. County and District Councillor Reports:

John Cordwell – County Councillor

The Boundary Commission for England has now published its draft proposals for parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. The Cotswold and Stroud Constituencies remain unchanged apart from Cotswold mysteriously gaining nine electors from Stroud. There will now be an official consultation process before the Boundary Commission decides whether or not to change its plans.

Public Transport Review: A meeting has at last been set up on 14th October between local county councillors and GCC officers to discuss proposals for subsidised services in the Berkeley, Dursley and Wotton areas. It seems likely that the Wotton Hopper will move from a Thursday to a Friday in view of the responses being received.

County Council Highways Information Evening - This took place on Monday 10th October.

The expected planning application for a supermarket on the Renishaw site in Old Town, Wotton under Edge will probably be submitted in December.

Paul Hemmings- District Councillor

There has been a delay for a month in any decision on the Car Parking survey, this because of the volume of input.

12. Training:

No training to be booked.

13. Grass Cutting:

Cllr T Burden's contact Barry (surname to be confirmed*) had agreed to cut the grass at £20.00 per cut.

Cllr A Doughty reported that Derrick Bond had not contacted her to confirm his interest.

Cllr A Clark has cut the grass twice & estimates it takes circa 30 mins to complete

Pam Stanley has planted up the beds with flowers.

All Councillors agreed that a formal contract will be needed to be in place by the Spring of next year and be part of the budget for next year.

Action Point: Cllr A Doughty will ask Derrick Bond and Nicola (surname to be confirmed) to give a confirmed quote

Action Point: Cllr T Burden will also ask Barry* to complete a confirmed quote.

14. Hillesley Village Directory:

The Fleece has a new telephone number of 843751

Action Point: Parish Clerk to complete amendment and prepare 3 or 4 amended docs for Margaret for November meeting.

15. Register of Members' Interest Forms: Parish Clerk has found copies in filing and asked Stroud DC to once again check their records.

16. Community Buy Out of The Fleece: Cllr D Darlow summarised the current position: The Parish Council and the parishioners want it to remain as a public house, but were aware of the danger that the pattern of new managers/tenants could further repeat itself. A Community Pub is admirable in principle, but a detailed business plan would be needed for review before any decisions could be taken. The Parish Council has committed to building relationships with anyone who proposed to purchase the pub. An application to the Village SOS Lottery Fund could not come from the Parish Council and the funds would not arrive until April 2012. There can only be one application per village and at the moment there may be 2 groups of parishioners who have expressed an interest. If multiple application are made then they will all be rejected. Parish Council would find itself in a difficult position if it aligned itself to one of a possible two groups. Parish Council would recommend that the 2 groups communicate with each other to try and reach consensus (especially as both groups are focussing on a community pub ethos).

In summary, the Parish Council Resolution is to:

- Urge all groups to discuss and agree a common proposal to purchase and run The Fleece as a community public house.
- Work with a fully representative group who put forward a firm proposal.
- Respond positively to call a further Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting if that was necessary, so that the Parish Council could take specific and appropriate actions.

17. Tresham Beacon for the Diamond Jubilee. The Parish Council confirmed that they would consider any proposal for a community event to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. **Action Point: Cllr T Burden to confirm to Parish Clerk whether a beacon is definitely planned for Tresham.**

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date of Next Meeting: 7.30pm Wednesday 9th November 2011 at Hopkins Hall, Hillesley

I certify that the above minutes are a correct record of the above meeting

Signed:.....Date:.....